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ABSTRACT

This paper traces the development of the National Library of Canada's newspaper collection in conjunction with the Decentralized Program for Canadian Newspapers. The paper also presents a sampling from the collection in order to illustrate the rich variety of the press that has followed in the footsteps of Fleury Mesplet, one of the first printers of newspapers in North America. Highlights include: the history of newspaper publishing in Canada from 1752 to 1858; responsibilities of the National Library of Canada newspaper collection and preservation program; and achievements at the national and regional levels, including creation online of "The Union List of Canadian Newspapers." Special types of newspapers collected are described, including: special issues of Canadian newspapers such as Christmas/holiday issues, carnival issues, and souvenir issues; labor and alternative press newspapers; ethnic press newspapers; student press newspapers; and community press newspapers; and aboriginal newspapers. (Contains 18 references.) (Author/MES)

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Mesplet to Metadata: Canadian newspaper preservation and access

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Abstract:

Fleury Mesplet was one of the first printers of newspapers in North America. He began a long tradition of publishing under difficult circumstances. This paper traces the development of the National Library of Canada's newspaper collection in conjunction with the Decentralized Program for Canadian Newspapers. The paper also presents a sampling from the collection in order to illustrate the rich variety of the press that has followed in Mesplet's footsteps.

The first newspaper published in what is now Canada was the *Halifax gazette* by John Bushell in 1752. Bushell was a Bostonian who took over the press from his business partner, Bartholomew Green, grandson of the first North American printer, Samuel Green. He printed a newspaper that largely reflected the view of the colonial government on whose patronage it depended. The paper has been described as semi-official, as it published statutes, laws, proclamations, and treaties; and semi-independent, as it published local news and advertisements as well as some opposition letters. As Halifax was only three years old at the time of the establishment of the newspaper, the circulation figure for the paper was a grand total of 72.

There is strong evidence that because of Bushell's other interests, much of the composition and printing of the paper was done by his daughter, Elizabeth. Around 1760, Bushell formed a partnership with Anthony Henry who inherited over the entire business on the death of John Bushell four months later. Henry's apprentice, Isaiah Thomas, contravened the Stamp Act and lost the paper its official status which was transferred to another printer and newspaper plant. Henry regained his paper in 1770 after quietly publishing an innocuous rival, the *Nova Scotia chronicle and Weekly advertiser,* that was less expensive than the *Gazette* and contained more local news. The old *Halifax gazette* became the *Nova Scotia gazette and weekly chronicle*. From

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1776 on, a number of loyalist presses; i.e. loyal to the British crown, sprang up in Nova Scotia as Boston printers exiled themselves and their presses to that province.

One of the oldest continuing newspapers published since 1778, was the Montreal *Gazette*. This was the second paper to be published in Lower Canada and the first to be published in Montreal. Its founder, a Frenchman, Joseph Fleury de Mesplet, became involved in the press largely because of the American Revolution. Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Chase and the Reverend Charles Carrol were commissioned by the Congress in Philadelphia to proceed to Montreal, which was under the command of the Americans in 1776, and establish a newspaper. They arrived in April with a printing press, type, paper and their printer, Mesplet, who produced an entreaty to French Canadians to join the cause of the American Revolution. This was fairly unsuccessful as the Lower Canada colonists remembered who had incited some of the native tribes to attack French Canadians. Franklin returned to Philadelphia in May and Mesplet moved his press to the Chateau de Ramezay. Although the first issue was almost entirely in French, Mesplet interjected bilingual commentary and by 1788, the paper was entirely bilingual, owing largely to the population in Montreal by that time. The following commentary by Mesplet in one of his earlier newspapers is a sarcastic report on the many governmental restrictions of the day on newspapers:
"There will not be printed in the paper a single paragraph tending to procure public instruction. Nor any reflection on the conduct of persons proposed by the government for the administration of justice, nor their judgments even though they should be known and proved to be against the laws, because this is none of our business, and you should submit, and consider their judgments with the eye of faith. Nor any work which would tend to destroy, or even to cast the least doubt upon their infallibility. Nor any writing in which it appears that we seek to diminish the civil despotism which they attribute to themselves: you should respect it. Nothing finally which could oblige individuals to keep within the limits of duty, of power and of honesty."

Upper Canada or what is mostly Ontario now, had a similar publishing history. Louis Roy, whose native language was also French, published the first newspaper, *the Upper Canada gazette or American oracle*, in Niagara in 1793. He moved his paper later to the rival city of the time, York, now known as Toronto. This newspaper, unlike the *Gazette de Montreal*, was fairly pro-government but it also eventually ran afoul of the law at the time when certain phrases were deemed to be libellous and the offending writers were fined or thrown into jail. By 1824, William Lyon Mackenzie had started his career as editor of the *Advocate* and he took on an immediate rivalry with the *Gazette* by accusing its editor, who was also the King's printer and a member of parliament, of conflict of interest that prompted a counter attack from the *Gazette* accusing Mackenzie of being a rebel. Mackenzie did not consider himself to be a journalist and his first effort had been a protest against a move to make the first provincial university sectarian which offended his democratic sensibilities.

Similarly, in the development of the Western provinces, the press was established by people with previous experience on British and Eastern Canadian newspapers such as William Buckingham who had been a shorthand writer on the Toronto *Globe* and founded the *Erie news* in Simcoe, Ontario and transported the press, the type, the printing paper and the ink on three ox-carts from St. Paul, Minnesota to Fort Garry to establish the *Nor'Wester* on December 28, 1859. The oxen broke away several times during the journey and the press paper arrived as a solid block of frozen reams of paper. In ensuing years, the press gained a reputation for good journalism and had correspondents such as Thomas D'Arcy McGee in Quebec, George Sheppard in Toronto and F.W. Chesson, Secretary of the Aborigines' Protection Society of England, contributing regular articles.

Saskatchewan's and Alberta's newspaper industry had the same kind of beginnings. Oxen also carted the *Bulletin* Edmonton from Winnipeg to Edmonton, although across flat prairie lands as opposed to the Red River valley. David Laird, the first Lieutenant Governor of the North-West

Territories, which at the turn of the century comprised Alberta, Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, established the Saskatchewan *herald* in Battleford.

In British Columbia, the earliest press was established to report news from the mining camps of the Cariboo in the *Sentinel.* However the first newspaper in British Columbia appeared in Victoria

in 1858 and lasted two issues. It was called *Le Courrier de la Nouvelle Calédonie* and was a French-language newspaper set up by a Catholic bishop to bring religion to the gold-mine areas. Four other short-lived newspapers followed its quick demise until Amor de Cosmos established the *British colonist.* Amor de Cosmos, whose real name was William Smith, was a Nova Scotian journalist and a strong advocate for responsible government. He changed his name, meaning "lover of the world", by an act of the California legislature. What he did not achieve in attacks on the government of the day and on one of its agencies, the Hudson's Bay Company, he later achieved as Premier of the Province.

This extremely brief look at Canadian newspaper printing history illustrates some common traits of newspaper editors: they were appointed to their positions either by government commissions or against them; they had previous experience as printers of pamphlets; they incurred the wrath of the authorities of the day; their initial ventures in the publishing industry were short lived although their later ventures endured long runs. As illustrated, newspaper publishing was a controversial business.

A more complete history of Canadian newspaper publishing may be found in the material cited at the end of this paper and in two other sources: a web page available in English and in French, entitled: *Impressions: 250 years of printing in the lives of Canadians / Impression : 250 ans d'imprimerie dans la vie des canadiennes* at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/2/10/index-e.html / http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/2/10/index-e.html and a review of that exhibit which appeared in the *National Library News* June 1999, Volume 31, no. 6 (now the *Bulletin*) at : http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/nl-news/1999/june99e/3106-11e.htm (in French at: http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/nl-news/1999/june99f/3106-51f.htm).

The National Library of Canada is a young institution created on January 1, 1953 by an Act in Parliament; however, the newspaper collection was not established until 1967 when the bound newspapers (approximately 18,000 volumes) from the Public Archives of Canada (now the National Archives of Canada) and the Library of Parliament were transferred to a new building. Prior to that time, there was no space for collections of bound papers. The National Library of Canada (NLC) also started to subscribe to morning editions of ten daily cross-Canada newspapers. In 1971, the NLC participated with the Canadian Library Association in microfilming a number of historical Canadian newspapers from each province and territory but it was not until a meeting in 1985, with representatives from each province and territory, that the National Library of Canada reaffirmed a collection policy based on a co-operative decentralized program that was announced as early as 1979. The program was based on several premises: that many of the provinces had large existing print collections, two (Quebec and Newfoundland) of which were based on comprehensive historical legal deposit mechanisms for print newspapers; that some of the provinces had already published union lists of their collections; that some of the provinces had microfilming programs to preserve their collections and that the resources required for acquiring, organizing, preserving and offering service to a centralized newspaper collection would not be forthcoming as opposed to those which could be obtained at a decentralized level.

The responsibilities were to be, on the national level, 1) planning, co-ordination and publicity of the program through the office of the Associate National Librarian where an Assistant Librarian would assume coordination; 2) promulgation of preservation and bibliographic standards ; 3) provision of limited funding to assist in developing master plans for newspaper collections; 4) provision of national and international lending, location and reference services; 5) acquisition and maintenance of all native and ethnic newspapers as well as a special collection of first, last

and historical supplements of Canadian newspapers ; 6) acquisition of a positive service copy of each newspaper microfilmed by the provincial projects as funds permit ; 7) creation and updating of a union list of Canadian newspapers and a register of microform masters . In addition, the National Library of Canada would also be involved in developing guidelines for preserving print newspapers and microfilming as part of its preservation program . The provinces assumed responsibility for two main aspects of the program: bibliographic control and planning. Bibliographic control was to include the "identification and description of all newspapers published in the province, past and present" and planning was to include description "in some detail [of] the mechanisms for collecting, preserving and making available the province's newspapers." The provinces were to report their holdings in the form of union lists whose content was to form the basis of a union list of Canadian newspaper holdings to be published by the National Library of Canada. As each province and territory had established a unique approach to the bibliographic control of its serial collections, the provinces were to be responsible for their own development and time frames based on their collections and the types of provincial institutions or library agencies involved.

By May 1989, the coordinator of the Decentralized Program was able to report on a number of achievements at the national and regional levels. On the national level, the *Union list of Canadian newspapers* had been created on-line on the National Library of Canada's on-line bibliographic system, DOBIS, and the first edition was to be published in December 1988 on microfiche. The list included data contributed by all provinces and territories except the Northwest Territories (although the titles from the NWT were included in lists sent by the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies). Upon completion, the reports of the Working Group on Technical Services and the Working Group on Original Issues of Canadian Newspapers were distributed to all coordinators and publicized to the library community through the *National Library News*. The Manitoba Library Association's *Guidelines for indexing newspapers* were also sent to all coordinators. As well, the Decentralized Program for Canadian Newspapers had received wide publicity in the national and international library community in the past three years.

To date, several important developments have been made in addition to those which will be reported in the individual provincial / territorial sections. The Northwest Territories has developed a master plan for the collection and preservation of NWT titles. The Microfilming Technical Committee of the CCCP published its report, *Guidelines for preservation microfilming / Lignes directrices pour la conservation sur microfilm dans les bibliothèques canadiennes* (Ottawa: National Library of Canada, 1993). The *Union list of Canadian newspapers* is now in its third edition (1993) and is available on microfiche as well as on the CD ROM, ROMULUS which also includes the *Union list of serials in the social sciences and humanities,* the *Union list of scientific serials in Canadian libraries,* and the *CISTI serials list*. The National Library of Canada has continued to support the Decentralized Program by purchasing newspapers microfilmed for preservation, including newspapers from Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories. The Preservation Office, National Library of Canada, has coordinated the receipt and storage of microform masters for institutions unable to provide adequate facilities or who wish to see first-generation film stored centrally.

The provincial / territorial projects have proceeded well but there are challenges to the program. Many of the initial contacts who single-handedly organized a program for preservation of newspapers in their respective institutions, have moved on to other projects and no one has replaced them. With the exception of New Brunswick and Newfoundland, no other province or territory has published a print list of titles and holdings in the past ten years. Many institutions have discarded their print newspaper collections but have not reported this to a master file. While some institutions reported indexing activities undertaken by various libraries and genealogical societies, this information has not been gathered comprehensively since 1985. It is of particular importance when institutions are making collecting decisions as the abstracting of items such as birth, marriage and death notices from all editions of a paper will ensure that at least

this most-often requested part of the paper is preserved when the complete print newspaper cannot be. Inadequate or insufficient filming of older titles is also an issue of contention. Given the decentralized and individualized approach to the newspaper preservation and access program, there is also a need for more coordination between provincial/territorial library and archival communities.

The National Library of Canada has collected a number of special types of newspapers over the years. They are issues that would not likely be filmed because of several factors: some contain a large number of coloured illustrations; they were not always part of the general subscription sold to the public; i.e. they were special inserts; and they represented a group who did not have the resources to have their papers microfilmed unless collectively. As technology has improved and archival and library institutions have responded to the need to make this type of material more accessible to researchers, more of these papers have been both filmed and scanned for digital projects to enhance Canadian history websites and multimedia presentations.

Special issues of Canadian Newspapers:
In 1971, along with first and last issues of Canadian newspapers of any kind—dailies, community, aboriginal, student and ethnic, the National Library of Canada decided to collect single issues of special newspapers. What constitutes a "special" newspaper? Until a fairly recent weeding project, this collection sometimes included whatever a staff member had brought back from a recent holiday. A special newspaper is deemed to be any supplement or issue that is not normally located in the newspaper and commemorates a special event. What constitutes a "special event"? This has further been defined as an event that is non-reoccurring and would be of interest to a wide community. For example, a section on an annual festival or the winning of a particular sports event or the death of a city figure would likely not mean that the print issue of a particular newspaper would be retained or acquired; however, an issue commemorating the history of a town that could likely be found on the centennial or the twentieth anniversary of that town or of the newspaper and an issue commemorating a royal visit or the death of a national figure would likely be retained with the special issues. The reason for retention of these special issues in addition to being historical is that these papers represent a colourful photograph on the past. Three types of special issues were also popular at the turn of the century:

Christmas/holiday issues, Carnival issues and souvenir issues:
The Christmas issue usually had a candy-box type of cover of a child or some depiction of a typical Canadian scene from the *Mail and empire's*, Toronto's moustached hunter on snowshoes striding jauntily through a Canadian forest to *Le monde illustré's* 1906 issue with the elderly French-Canadian couple returning from church on a starry evening. Inside the issues would present a series of the required ads, photographs of Canada in winter and summer, often scenes of the Rockies and a series of poems or essays more likely American or British, or, in the case of *Le monde illustré*, French. There were some interesting exceptions including Bliss Carman's *My Maple Leaf* written especially for the 1886 Christmas and New Year's number of the *Montreal star* a... *The Rideau Record's* (Smiths Falls) account of Christmas in the Himalayas (*Christmas in the Orient)* by S.N.Singh.
The Carnival issues were designed for a particular purpose—to attract tourists to an annual event. In this sense they were more of tourist brochure and as such, did not often survive the vagaries of newspaper collecting. They tended to be more topically pictorial than the Christmas issues and often were bilingual even though they appeared in a usually unilingual newspaper such as the *Quebec Daily Telegraph.* They were of particular importance to biographers as they often contained photographs of local dignitaries, especially those of the Quebec Winter carnival organizing committee and local buildings. However, the 1894 issue of the *Quebec Daily telegraph* on page 14 also contains an artist's rendition of the elaborate ice sculptures that were typical of carnival activities.
The final category, the souvenir issues, usually represented a particular historical event such as the end of the *Quebec Chronicle's 1920 Canada's Share in War, Victory and Peace* or the *Quebec Daily telegraph's Grosse Isle Monument Commemorative Souvenir* number *issued on the*

occasion of the unveiling, on August 15th, 1909 of the monument erected to the Irish victims of the plague of 1847-1848. One of the more touching pages of the Great War souvenir edition contained photographs of war graves, notably officers', with John McRae's *In Flanders Fields.* The issue also served as an advertisement for the Soldier's Settlement Board of Canada. The *Grosse Isle* issue contains eyewitness reports from the time as well as legislative accounts which have since disappeared from other sources and the accounts of the time by a member of the Postmaster General's office who wrote for the Irish press in Ireland and in Canada.

The labour and alternative press:
General histories in the past often compare Canada to the United States citing the Civil War and stating that Canada is a peaceful nation not prone to protest except legislatively. An examination of labour papers and what is often referred to as the "alternative press" which would include underground, revolutionary and radical press shows that Canada actually has a rich history of fairly violent protest exemplified not in the least by William Lyon Mackenzie in the 1830's and 1840's continuing to the General Strikes in Winnipeg in 1919 up to the modern protests against the war in Vietnam which were housed in newspapers often published in Canada. A number of newspapers such as *John Blunt's Flash,* which published under that name and under *Flash* in the late 1930's and 1940's were, at the very least, conspiracy alerts. Some of headlines found in *Flash* were "Big business affiliates in Nazi grip! ", "Condor Gold Mines Swallowed Millions" and "When Will R.C.M.P. Act In Quebec?"

Some of the predecessors in the 1960s and 1970s were New Brunswick's *The mysterious east* which delighted in attacking the stronghold that the K.C. Irving company held in that province, *The 4th estate* from Halifax, Nova Scotia and *Georgia straight* from Vancouver, British Columbia whose editors have been arrested for counselling to grow marijuana, obscenity, selling newspapers without a licence and, of course, an old favourite, criminal libel. *Amex: the American ex-patriat in Canada* that published from 1969 to 1977, included a travel advisory for Americans concerning the best cities in which to settle. While the underground press does not flourish as widely as it did twenty years ago, it has found new homes in desktop publishing, on the Internet through web pages such as NewsWatch Canada (http://newswatch.cprost.sfu.ca/) and on the street in publications such as *Toronto street news: helping homeless and unemployed*, a newspaper sold by homeless people.

Most labour newspapers were short-lived and tended to centre on a particular event or cause. In the National Library of Canada, most of these have treated as periodicals, which have come on legal deposit since 1965 as official organs of Canadian labour organizations; however, older single issues of what would have been seen as just another newspaper of the time albeit with a particular political bent were treated as newspapers. Some samples of these papers include *Ontario workman* which was published by the Toronto Trades Assembly and the Canadian Labour Union and appeared during the strike of the Toronto typographers for a nine-hour day in 1872; the *Palladium of Labour* which was established March 21, 1883 as the *Labour Union*, the official organ of District Assembly 61, Knights of Labour and was an exponent of land reform; the *People's Voice*, an independent from Winnipeg, Manitoba which published the activities of the railway workers in 1897; *Bond of Brotherhood,* which appeared in 1903 in Calgary, Alberta and was the first labour journal published in the then Northwest Territories and the *Labour Leader* from Sydney, Nova Scotia, 1919, which demanded fair wages for returning soldiers and also demanded better mail and train service in Cape Breton.

It is also difficult to separate the roots of the labour movement in Canada from the roots of some of the early immigrant press in North America. For this reason, the National Library tends to retain or acquire collections of North American immigrant labour papers that were not published in Canada but were important sources of information on migrating North American ethnic groups. An example is the Croatian newspaper, *Zajednicar,* which has been published in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania since 1906 to represent the interests of Croatian workers in North America. There is also strong evidence of suppression of the anti-fascism in Canada, a cause that the nascent

immigrant labour newspapers took up in the 1920's and 1930's. For example; a student who was in Canada on a visa published a newspaper called Il Risveglio Italiano in 1926. It lasted four months until the Department of Immigration, under the urging of the Italian Consul General, suppressed the newspaper and threatened its editor with deportation. The editor avoided this fate with the help of a petition signed by several thousands but he did cease publishing his newspaper.

Ethnic press:
In 1981, the staff of the Newspaper Section, Linda Erwin and Ruth Bogusis, wrote a handout for the Ethnic Press Exhibition entitled: *The ethnic press in Canada : almost 200 years of ethnic journalism.* The following history of the Canadian ethnic press is taken from this handout.
Two-hundred and twenty-one years ago, Anthony Henry (Anton Heinrich), a German immigrant and a former editor-printer of Canada's first newspaper, the *Halifax Gazette*, realized a life-long dream by publishing the first ethnic newspaper in Canada, *Die Welt, und Neuschottländische Correspondenz.* It appeared in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in January 1788, only 36 years after the *Halifax Gazette.* No copies of this newspaper are known to exist but there are copies of Henry's first German serial publication, an almanac, *Der Neuschotteländische Calendar* that appeared in December 1787.

It was some time before the appearance of another ethnic newspaper, also German, in Waterloo County, Ontario. The *Canada Museum und Allgemeine Zeitung* began publishing in August 1835 in what is now Kitchener, Ontario, and continued until December 1840. By the 1840s a few other ethnic newspapers had already begun publishing, and more appeared over the next twenty years; notable among them were two newspapers published by African American immigrants to Canada who were fleeing slavery in the United States. The *Voice of the Fugitive* (Windsor, Ontario) appeared from 1851 to about 1853 and the *Provincial Freeman and Weekly Advertiser* (Chatham, Ontario) published from March 1853 to September 1857.

Until an Italian newspaper made its appearance in 1894 and a Jewish paper in 1897, most of the newspapers published in the forty-year interim were by Germans, Icelanders, Swedes and Danes. However, more and more ethnic newspapers began to appear between 1896 and 1905 as more European immigrants answered the call by Sir Clifford Sifton, Laurier's minister of the interior, to open up Western Canada.
The oldest such newspaper is the German *Mennonitische Rundschau,* which was launched in Winnipeg in 1877. Other veterans are the Icelandic *Lögberg Heimskringla* (Winnipeg), the Ukrainian *Kanadiis'kyi Farmer* (Winnipeg), the *Ta Han Kung Pao=Chinese Times* (Vancouver), the German *Der Courier* (Winnipeg), the Jewish *Keneder Adler* (Montreal), the Norwegian *Norröna* (Vancouver), the Ukrainian *Ukrianskyi Holos* (Vancouver), the Jewish *Dos Yiddishe Vort* (Winnipeg), the Chinese *Hsin min kuo pao=The New Republic* (Vancouver), the Jewish *YiddisherJournal* (Toronto), the German *Die Post* (Steinbach), the Finnish *Canadan Uutiset* (Thunder Bay) and the Polis *Czas* (Winnipeg).

There was strong enthusiasm and determination among early pioneers to publish newspapers in their native languages. Presses were brought in by oxen or carried in by hand, and, where presses were not available, newspapers were painstakingly copied by hand. Both world wars were responsible for new immigrants and both post-war periods were marked by increased ethnic publishing activity. During the wars, governmental pressure was inevitably exerted on the Japanese, the German, the Italians and on some Eastern European ethnic press in Canada. These papers were either suppressed for a time, or forced to publish bilingually (native language and English).

The 1950s and early 1960s saw a steady growth in ethnic publishing. More and more groups who had not published newspapers before were making the attempt. Some efforts were successful; others were not. Beginning in the late 1960s and continuing through the 1970s, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of newspapers (and periodicals) published by ethnic groups. Despite the high mortality rate among the ethnic press, there are today over 200 ethnic

newspapers in Canada published by more than 40 different ethnic groups. Some groups such as the Latvians only publish one newspaper, while others such as the Germans have at least ten. In addition to newspapers, Canada's ethnic groups also publish more than 150 periodicals.

Today the ethnic press is no longer represented by only the printed word; it now encompasses all facets of modern media, including radio, television and the Internet. Over the years many editors and publishers have come together and formed ethnic press clubs and associations, both provincial and national in scope. They have tried to become influential forces in Canadian life and have endeavoured to make their voices heard in Canadian government circles on behalf of the "third element" of the Canadian population.

Because of the devastating reductions to non-Canadiana budgets in the past and the increasing cost of print and film subscriptions (with reports of 200% increases in subscription costs for some of the 11 foreign newspapers subscriptions), the National Library of Canada encourages reference staff and researchers to check the ethnic newspapers for world-wide news which can no longer be found on the "day's news only without a fee" Internet sites. Many of our researchers who work in languages other than English and French appreciate the ethnic newspapers as they are able to read about the news in their ancestral country of origin and observe the political developments according to the particular bias of the ethnic group producing the paper.
The Vietnam and Somalian refugee movements have meant an influx of new immigrant groups who have also contributed richly to the heritage of Canadian communities through their presses.

Student press:
The Canadian University Press send their issues to the National Library a year after receipt from the publishers. Student newspapers tend to get away with more than most papers although, as mentioned with the *Georgia strait* previously, they have also been subject to libel suits mainly from their own constituents. In the history of student newspaper journalism, some of the most vitreous articles were reserved for in fighting among the staff. Nevertheless, Canadian student newspapers were launching pads for many illustrative careers including those of the comedians, Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster (*Varsity*, University of Toronto), writers Louis Dudek (*McGill Daily*, Montreal), actors, Eugene Levy and Dave Thomas (*The Silhouette*, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario), and Canada's National Librarian, Roch Carrier (*Le Bouclier*, Université Saint-Louis, Edmundston, Nouveau-Brunswick).

Community press:
It is difficult to describe comprehensively Canadian community newspapers, especially when over 3000 exist, but one unifying factor is that many communities named their papers in a way that
reflected an aspect of the paper; for example, the political bias; e.g. The confederate or the name of the founder; e.g. Ross' weekly or an aspect of the community-- a landmark e.g. the Southampton beacon; or a common activity in the district at the time; Le trappeur Winnipeg; or a humorous play on the name of the paper and the town; e.g. the Ayr gun. This unifying factor allows a number of cross-Canada weeklies to be presented in a way that reflects a wide variety of Canadian communities in an interesting fashion. Some other samples are from Alberta: The Olds Moose-paper; the Stavely Honeydripper and the Swan Hills Grizzley ; from British Columbia : the Ganges Gulf Islands driftwood; the Kitimat Ingot and Vancouver's The Linear magpie and The Ozonagram ; from Manitoba, St. Boniface's Le Métis and from Winnipeg, Siftings ; from New Brunswick 's Grand Falls, the Cataract and from Saint John, The Penny dip ; from Newfoundland, Harbour Breton's The foghorn; and St. John's Confederate , whose rival, The Independent hotly contested the right to the island in 1949; from the North West Territories and Nunavut; the Arctic Howl from Baker Lake and from Pine Point, the Pine pointer. Nova Scotia had, from Antigonish, The Casket and from Halifax the Owl. Ontario, the province with the largest number of community newspapers had the Falcon flyer, from Falconbridge, Charivari from Hamilton; A Usually Reliable Source from the capital, Ottawa, the Southampton beacon aptly named for the lighthouse on Chantry Island and on the north side of this town and from

Toronto, the Porcupine which pricked its readers in 1835. From the smallest of the provinces came the Charlottetown Phenix and from Québec came original titles such as Montréal 's Le loup garou and Le vrai loup- garou and Polichinelle . One of the more interesting titles was Tenaga Quebec's The Low down to Hull and back new. The prairie province of Saskatchewan had Battleford 's Little joker and Moose Jaw's Our way of life and finally, the Yukon 's Dawson City, home of the gold rush published the Clondyke news.

Community newspapers continue to be an unplumbed source of local history and remain popular among researchers for their genealogical value. Many towns in Canada have been persuaded to microfilm their newspapers when the local Rotarian or head of another town organization discovers that their name was in frequent print as the paper published the only account of the local council meetings or a history of a town founder who happens to be their ancestor.

Aboriginal newspapers:
It is likely that the aboriginal press remains one of the untapped resources in Canada for studies in aboriginal political issues. In 1974, the Native Communications Program was developed by the federal government to fund Canada's aboriginal press. The program was cancelled in 1990 and this dealt a severe blow to the publishers. Two large newspapers, *Kainai news* from Alberta and *Micmac news* from Nova Scotia died as a result after attempts to regain funding through increased advertising. In both cases, the papers had been publishing for a predominantly rural audience where unemployment figures reached over 85% in some communities. In Labrador, the paper published in Inuktitut and English, *Kinatuinamot Ilengajuk,* became English only to allow for more ad space and also changed its frequency from monthly to quarterly and it ceased publication in 1993.

The aboriginal press has recovered somewhat with the advent of electronic news but the loss of the print word is illustrated by the now defunct Suvaguq from Pond Inlet / Mittimatalik, Nunavut. The newspaper was done on coloured paper with handwritten script because of the Inuktituk symbols. In 1991, the Northwest Territories Archives filmed all extant issues and the National Library of Canada retains the print issues as well. The editorial comment on page one "No News is Good News" is quite interesting as it states basically that there was no news, as no one was around to make or even read the news. They were all out on the sea ice or at campsites or waiting to go there. Some of the content included an article on television, radio and mail in the North and the need for local communications. There was also a note on a blood test for Vitamin C levels and a note from the Nursing Station on proper meal preparation. The paper ended with a request for information and samples from narwhal caught at the floe edges and one obituary notice that was hand-written and illustrated with a drawing of a cross.

Although a good variety of aboriginal newspapers exist for many communities across Canada, they tend to have a short life and are difficult to acquire, as they are often not advertised widely in trade publications. The National Library is pursuing ways of better acquisition of aboriginal newspapers and periodicals; however, it is interesting to note where gaps occur. A search for an issue of an aboriginal newspaper in Quebec that covered the Oka incident, where the period between March 11 and September 26, 1990 was marked by the confrontation between Mohawk Indians, the Quebec Provincial Police, and the Canadian Armed Forces near Oka, was unsuccessful either in English or in French although the coverage by aboriginal communities on the Internet was extensive.

The National Library of Canada has encouraged access to these print newspapers and their surrogates on microfilm through use of the National Library's catalogue, ResAnet and through Access Amicus that provides bibliographic holdings and locations information for over 200 million records from over 500 libraries. There are also two sources available at the National Library of Canada's site at www.nlc-bnc.ca which are of interest to the research community: the *Canadian newspapers on microform held by the National Library of Canada / Les journaux canadiens sur microforms disponibles à la Bibliothèque nationale du Canada* which gives a brief

title and holdings for all of the newspapers acquired on microform and the *Checklist of Indexes to Canadian newspapers held by the National Library of Canada / La liste de contrôle de journaux canadiens conservés à la Bibliothèque nationale du Canada,* which lists print, online and CD-ROM indexes which have been received on legal deposit. Information at this site is available by searching by province, by title of the index and by the title of the newspaper. Both of these sources are updated regularly.

The National Library's decision to preserve a part of the past by retaining a large number of print newspapers was partly based on its role as conserver of the printed word in Canada and partly as the NLC is one of the few national libraries which has never had a preservation microfilming program. A limited program has been revitalized and a number of titles have been identified for preservation microfilming; mostly newspapers, which would not otherwise be preserved commercially or by provincial/territorial filming programs.

The types of newspapers that the National Library has been adding to its print collection are indicative of the richness of newspaper publishing in Canada. While commercial enterprises have largely been responsible for most of the preservation microfilming of newspapers, some provincial institutions such as Quebec, Newfoundland, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, the North West Territories (including Nunavut) and Alberta have ongoing newspaper preservation microfilming programs for community newspapers and Ontario, Manitoba, the Yukon Territories, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia have had filmed older papers but do not have ongoing current microfilming programs. While the consensus is that digitization will allow a larger public to have access to the contents of more newspapers, the library and archival communities do not see digitization as a preservation tool. Digital storage or digitization then microfilming from the digital source has been viewed to date as a means of preserving some information in newspapers. Any digitization program on a national level must serve the dual purpose of being accessible and archival. In order to do both, the institution must adopt standards and best practices in its microfilming and digitization program or in what it develops through partners or contracts for these programs and create and capture the information required to identify the information that defines the print source. All of the above-listed categories contain candidates for digitization; however, none of the digitization projects to date could replace the original article. Perhaps the solution to the conundrum of preservation of newspapers is a combination of print, microform and digitization methods that will best suit the needs of present and future researchers.

Bassam, Bertha. **The first printers and newspapers in Canada**. [Toronto]: University of Toronto, School of Library Science, [1968] Monographic series in Librarianship, no. 1.
Biggar, E.B. Sketch of Canadian Journalism: Introduction, *1892 volume* in **The Canadian Newspaper Directory**. Montreal: A. McKim, 1892-1923.
Brisebois, Michel. From the Exhibition Room … the Long Road to Publishing. ***National Library News***. Vol. 31. No. 6. June 1999. pp. 8-9
Burrows, Sandra. The Decentralized Plan for Canadian Newspapers: 1983 to 1994 and Beyond. Co-published simultaneously in ***The Serials Librarian***. Vol. 26. No. ¾. 1995. pp.55-83 and **Serials Canada: Aspects of Serials Work in Canadian Libraries**. Edited by Wayne Jones. N.Y. The Haworth Press, Inc. 1995. pp. 55-83. Endnotes Notes, 4 and 5 as follows: McKeen, Liz. **Decentralized program for Canadian newspapers - report** 1988-11-18 to H. Clement, M.Scott and Senior Staff minutes **Appendix C: Recommendations of the Resource Network Committee to the National Library Advisory Board** arising form the meeting of March 17-18, 1983 Annex A.: Senior staff meeting April 7, 1983.
Canada's Printing Pïoneers. ***Provincial's Paper***. Vol. 31. No. 2. 1966 18 p.
Demay, Joël. The persistence and creativity of Canadian aboriginal newspapers. ***Canadian Journal of Communications***, Vol. 18, No. 1, 1993
Elliott, Robbins L. The Canadian labour press from 1867: a chronological annotated directory. ***Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science***. Vol. 14. May 1948. pp. 220-227.

While few publications exist that are devoted solely to the labour press in Canada, **Radical Rag: the pioneer labour press in Canada** by Ron Verzuh. Ottawa: Steel Rail Publishing, 1988 gives an excellent account of the rise of the labour up to the 1920s.

The Ethnic Press in Canada: almost 200 years of ethnic journalism. Ottawa : National Library of Canada, June 25, 1980 // **La presse ethnique au Canada : près de deux cents ans de journalisme ethnique**. Ottawa : Bibliothèque nationale du Canada, le 25 juin 1980.

Flash. Toronto, ON [1938- 194?//] Vol. 3. No. 16. Saturday, September 21, 1940. pp. 3 and 10.

The immigrant labour press in North America, 1840s-1970s : an annotated bibliography. Volume 3: Migrants from Southern and Western Europe. Bibliographies and Indexes in American History, Number 8. N.Y.: Greenwood Press, 1987. Edited by Dirk Hoerder.

John Blunt's Flash. Toronto, ON [1941- ?//] Vol. 4. No. 36. Saturday, July 29, 1944. p 1.

O'Malley, Martin. *Duck! Here*. **Globe Magazine**. November 7, 1970. p 5.

The immigrant labour press in North America, 1840s-1970s : an annotated bibliography. Volume 2: Migrants from Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Bibliographies and Indexes in American History, Number 7. N.Y.: Greenwood Press, 1987. Edited by Dirk Hoerder.